Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A filtration arrangement comprising:

an aeration hood comprising an upper wall and at least one downwardly extending side wall, the at least one side wall at least partially shrouding at least one membrane module vertically positioned within a feed tank, the aeration hood comprising at least one open-ended tube, the at least one open-ended tube extending downwardly from the upper wall,

each of the at least one open-ended tubes having at least one of the at least one membrane modules mounted therein, at least one of the at least one membrane modules in fluid communication with an interior of the feed tank through a lower end of the at least one open-ended tube,

at least one aeration opening in a wall of the at least one open-ended tube ~~at a location spaced from an upper end of the at least one open-ended tube~~, and

the ~~aeration hood~~ at least one downwardly extending side wall extending to below the location of the at least one aeration opening in the at least one open-ended tube.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the aeration hood side walls [[are]] is formed by a side wall[[s]] of the feed tank with the upper wall being sealingly attached to the at least one aeration hood side wall.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the at least one aeration opening is disposed adjacent to a lower end of the at least one open-ended tube.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, wherein each of the at least one membrane modules [[are]] is mounted in a corresponding open-ended tube.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the at least one aeration opening is shaped as a slot.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, further comprising an aeration header located below the aeration hood.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the at least one side wall extends downward to at least a downward extent of a lower end of the at least one open-ended tube.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The filtration arrangement according to claim [[10]] 15, wherein the at least one aeration opening is spaced adjacent to a lower end of the at least one open-ended tube.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The filtration arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the at least one aeration opening is shaped as an open-ended slot extending upwardly from a lower end of the at least one open-ended tube.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A filtration arrangement comprising:

at least one membrane module positioned vertically within a feed tank;

a sleeve surrounding a periphery of the at least one membrane module, the sleeve extending at least partially along a length of the at least one membrane module, ~~leaving~~ and having an open region adjacent to a lower end of the at least one membrane module; and

an aeration hood positioned to shroud the at least one membrane module at the location of the open region.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The filtration arrangement of claim 20, wherein the open region is defined by at least one opening in the sleeve.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method of cleaning a membrane module disposed in a tank comprising:

immersing in feed liquid a filtration arrangement comprising an aeration hood shrouding the membrane module, the aeration hood comprising a tube extending downwardly from an upper wall of the aeration hood, the tube at least partially enclosing the membrane module and comprising an aeration opening in a wall of the tube at a location spaced from an upper end thereof ~~the aeration hood extending to below the location of the aeration opening~~;

displacing ~~the~~ feed liquid within the aeration hood with a gas ~~to a level below the location of the aeration opening~~; and

passing the gas through the aeration opening into a volume enclosed by the tube.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of cleaning the membrane module of claim 22, further comprising maintaining a liquid seal at a lower end of the tube.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of cleaning the membrane module of claim 23, further comprising maintaining a pressure drop across the aeration opening sufficient to maintain the liquid seal.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of cleaning the membrane module of claim 22, further comprising withdrawing permeate through the membrane module.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of cleaning the membrane module of claim 22, wherein the act of passing gas through the aeration opening comprises scouring the membrane module with gas passed through the aeration opening.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A water treatment system, comprising:

an aeration hood submerged in water to be treated, the aeration hood comprising an upper wall with an opening;

a tube at least partially submerged in the water to be treated, the tube having a first open end sealingly secured to the upper wall at the opening; and

a membrane module disposed within the tube, the membrane module in fluid communication with the water to be treated through the opening in the upper wall.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 27, further comprising an aeration header submerged below the aeration hood.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 27, wherein the tube comprises at least one aeration opening disposed at a tube wall thereof.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 29, wherein the membrane module is in fluid communication with water to be treated within the aeration hood through the at least one aeration opening.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 29, wherein the aeration hood is partially filled with air.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 29, wherein the membrane module is in fluid communication with air in the aeration hood through the at least one aeration opening.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 32, wherein the tube has a second open end in fluid communication with the water to be treated within the aeration hood.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The water treatment system of claim 33, wherein at least one aeration opening is disposed proximate the second open end.

Claim 35 (new): The filtration arrangement of claim 10, wherein the at least one aeration opening in the wall of the at least one open-ended tube is at a location spaced from the upper end of the at least one open-ended tube.

Claim 36 (new) The method of claim 22, wherein displacing the feed liquid within the aeration hood with a gas comprises displacing the feed liquid to a level below the location of the aeration opening.